BOOKS AND AUTHORS — REVIEWS AND COMMENT

LITERARY CRITICISM AND BOOK NEWS

Professor Usher on the Dangers He Sees Confronting Us—Bypaths of the Reign of Terror—Contemporary Plays.

H. G. WELLS "BEALBY": MACMILLAN CO.

GOUVERNEUR MORRIS "THE SEVEN DARLINGS" CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS

ROUGET DE L'ISLE (from "BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE TERROR": BRENTANO'S

COMMANDER V. L. A. CAMPBELL, R.N. (From "ANTARCTIC ADVENTURE" E. P. DUTTON & CO.)

PAN-AMERICANISM.

PAN-AMERICANISM. A Forecast of the Inevitable Clash Between the United States and Europe's Victor. By Roland G. Usher, Ph. D. 8vo, pp. xix, 466. The Century Company.

As a writer on world politics Professor Usher is nothing if not picturesque. From a foundation of solid facts he rises enthusiastically to the boldest theories, whence he confidently proceeds to truly georgeous conclusions. He is a student endowed with a brilliant imagination. Now, in forecasting the future, imagination is absolutely necessary, and one need not follow one's author to the very end. Like its predecessor, "Pan-Germanism," this new volume is a richly suggestive mixture of facts, speculations and far-reaching generalizations. But one rises from it with new ideas, many of them of solid value.

Professor Usher is convinced that the United States will in the near future have to fight the victor in the European war. Austria, Russia and France do not count in the outcome so far as we are concerned; it will be either Germany or England, probably the latter. In fact, as he sees the war (and here we come upon one of the bold generalizations that make him such capital reading), it is at bottom a struggle for the financial and commercial control of South America.

> It is not too much to say that the cause of the present struggle for markets in Europe is the attempt to replace the market which the United States once afforded their produce, but which it provides no longer. Here is the root of Pan-Germanism, the secret of the interest in Morocco, in China, in South America. Europe has always depended upon selling to a rapidly developing market, and has adjusted her economic fabric to an ever increasing demand. For at least two centuries the United States furnished that market, and now that it does so no longer it must be replaced. There is this great and significant difference in the situation: the company of nations seeking markets numbers one more. . . . We ourselves are seeking markets for the annual increase of our output.

Professor Usher puts his faith in the late Captain Mahan's theory of sea power as the decisive factor in history. It was the growth of the German navy, he holds, that forced England to give not only the control of the Mediterranean to France, but also the control of the Pacific to Japan, and, further, that of the Gulf of Mexico and of the eastern waters of this continent to us. Theretofore it had been the British fleet which, in an unobtrusive way, had been the real protector of the Monroe Doctrine.

But, while Germany may win on land with sufficient decisiveness to force a compromise on a trading monopoly in South America, instead of taking territory in Europe, productive of future strife, the end of the war will find England probably not only still in actual control of the sea, but freed of her preoccupation with the German navy. She will resume her supremacy in the waters of the Western Hemisphere; there will be no longer a reason for conciliating us. "Why, too, should she not extend her present possessions in the Gulf of Mexico?" After the Suez Canal, that of Panama. Alaska, with its gold, its coal, its great undeveloped riches, is geographically a part of Canada; "the simplicity of the operations required to add the territory to Canada will be apparent to the least informed." Finally, to recoup herself the more quickly for the staggering cost of the war, she will not tolerate, if she can stop it, the commercial competition of the United States in South America. Our foreign trade is carried almost entirely in English bottoms; our foreign exchange is almost always via London, and there you are.

One thing more. Japan, which has learned efficiency from the Germans, which has the same problem of a growing population and consequent need of new markets, and, moreover, a pan-Asiatic doctrine, may turn from its main ambition in China to claim the island chain which reaches from her own empire through the Philippines to Java and Sumatra.

This, then, is, according to Professor Usher, the prospect before us at the end of the war. We are to take the place of Germany in British imperialistic policies, which cannot stop, but must go ever forward, or lead to increasing poverty at home and decline of power abroad.

And what of pan-Americanism? The trouble with that, says our author, is that, first of all, South America wants none of it. To the Latin-Americans it spells the expansion of the United States—an undesired hegemony leading to imperialism. In their finances and trade they are much nearer to England, to Germany, than to us; culturally they look to France and in their literature to Spain. They, Professor Usher assures us, do not dread European conquest, for they know that it is out of the question, a military impossibility:

> It would not be wise at this great crisis for us to deny, or, indeed, to fail to recognize frankly the Latin-American belief that the real enemy against whom they need protection and of whose political domination they are certainly afraid is the United States. They would consider the weakening of the position of the United States in the Western Hemisphere at the hands of Europe's victor far from detrimental to them, because the present arrangement between the United States and England, by which the United States has actual control of the Gulf of Mexico, has been almost their only reason for grave apprehension. If the result of the present war should be the expulsion of the United States from their waters, there would be few serious thinkers south of the Rio Grande who would not regard the change as *prima facie* beneficial.

Professor Usher can see no future for pan-Americanism; we shall be without friends, and certainly face to face with one enemy, at the end of the war. We need, to maintain ourselves, a merchant marine sufficiently large to carry all our foreign trade, and a navy strong enough to protect it wherever it goes, and to keep in check an enemy who would threaten us. And while building this navy we must have an army strong enough to protect us against invasion. This, at least, is sound doctrine, and so is the chapter on the price we should have to pay for disarmament. And what, asks Professor Usher pointedly, "is the difference between disarmament and our present military and naval condition?"

The book is worth reading, provided one takes, while reading it, many a pinch of consideration of facts, present and future, left out of the reckoning by the author. As we began by saying, Professor Usher is nothing if not picturesque. He is the impressionist of world politics.

INTERNATIONAL LAW.

Judge Parry, the author of "What the Judge Saw" and "The Law and the Poor," has been explaining the intricacies of international law to the readers of "The Manchester Chronicle." "Twenty years ago," he says, "international law was nobody's business. Now it is everybody's business." One of the standard works on the subject is "Halleck's International Law; or Rules Regulating the Intercourse of States in Peace and War" (Dutton). Among the subjects discussed are blockades, cargo, contraband, Dardanelles, flags, merchant vessels, neutrality, piracy, prisoners of war, privateers, ransom, recapture, reprisals, safe conducts or passports, salutes, stratagems, treaties, visitation and search, war and women. The work, which is printed on very lightweight paper, in clear, legible type, is in two volumes. Another helpful book is Baker's "First Steps in International Law," also published by E. P. Dutton & Co.

COSAS DE CALIFORNIA

Place Names, Their Origins and Meanings.

SPANISH AND INDIAN PLACE NAMES OF CALIFORNIA. Their Meaning and Romance. By Nellie Van de Grift Sanchez. Illustrated. 8vo, pp. 446. San Francisco: A. M. Robertson.

Matthew Arnold long ago complained of the unimaginative baldness of many of our place names—of our Linoleumvilles and Smithtowns, for instance. Since then we ourselves have become deeply interested in the subject. We have corrected the matter-of-factness of pioneers too busy with the struggle for survival to bother about euphony; we are restoring Indian names wherever they can be traced; we have even become as flowery as our parlor-car sponsors and racing stable owners in the naming of our country homes. Mrs. Sanchez's lists of Californian Spanish and Indian place names are interesting because she adds to them the history or legends explaining their meaning, often fanciful and apocryphal, but all the more romantic for that.

The name California itself was taken from a Spanish romance written early in the sixteenth century as a sequel to "Amadis de Gaul." In the story it was a sort of earthly paradise peopled by black Amazons. The Golden Gate, it may be stated here at once, was named by a hardy Anglo-Saxon explorer with a gleam of poetry in his soul—Frémont. The Indian place names of California, we learn, have mostly lost their meanings because we began to inquire into them too late. There is, moreover, in California a constant possibility of confusing Spanish with Indian names, as in the case of Pala, which is Indian and means "water," and Palo, which is Spanish, and means "post." Again, Calabazas ("pumpkins") was originally the Indian Calahuasa, and Tia Juana, Tiwana. Pasadena, curiously enough, is Indian. It has nothing to do with a Pass of Eden, but means Crown of the Valley. Los Angeles was originally Nuestra Señora la Reina de los Angeles de Porciuncula.

There is grim pioneer humor in "Sal Si Puede," which means "Get Out if You Can." In fact, the early Spaniards were often no more poetic in their choice of place names than were our own pioneers; only, their matter-of-fact words sound more musical. Sierra Nevada, for instance, simply means "Snowy Saw," referring, of course, to the jagged outline of the range. There is in California a Las Pulchas Rancho, which sounds ever so much better than its English equivalent, "Flea Ranch." Then there are Los Gatos (the Cats), Canejo (Rabbit) and innumerable Coyotes. Leon is not of Spanish origin; Triunfo—nothing less—is, the author explains, a "real estate name" that has no historical significance.

Of all the saints who have given their names to Californian places that of Santa Rosa should interest us most, because she is "said to be the only canonized female saint of the New World." She was born at Lima, in Peru, and the legend has it that when Clement X was asked to canonize her he exclaimed: "An Indian woman a saint! That may happen when it rains roses." Instantly a shower of roses began to fall on the Vatican. Santa Rosa is the patron saint of all the Americas.

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

Historical Highways and Bypaths of the Terror.

BEHIND THE SCENES IN THE TERROR. By Hector Fleischmann. With fourteen illustrations. 8vo, pp. 329. Brentano's.

This volume contains the chips from a French revolutionary historian's workshop, odds and ends of interest, many of them but little known. The author begins by visiting with us the Paris prisons of the Terror, taking as his guides the numerous pamphlets purporting to deal with what happened within their walls, which were published in France beginning with the year 1793. Many of these publications have become exceedingly scarce; of all of them it may be said that, along with much invention and romantic and ghastly misrepresentation, they contained a modicum of facts. The last hours, the last words of the condemned, the hysterics of liberation at the last moment, the clubs formed by the prisoners awaiting trial, their pastimes and songs—among them a parody of the "Marseillaise":

Contre nous de la tyrannie
Le couteau sanglant est levé, etc.,

the amiability, cruelty and venality of jailers, the indignities put upon women prisoners, all this is discussed, tested and often disproved. M. Fleischmann is an apologist of the Terror. It was bad enough, he admits, but not nearly so bad as it has been painted. He draws a touching picture of Fouquier-Tinville, its public prosecutor, as a patriot devoted to his duty.

He strips the assassination of the Princess de Lamballe of some of its traditional atrocities of mutilation after her death; and he disproves entirely the horrible legend of the glass of human blood drunk by Mlle. de Sombreuil as the price of her father's life. No trace of this story can be found in the mass of pamphlets dealing with the Terror down to the year 1801, when it makes its first appearance in the "Mérite des Femmes"; thereafter its variants are many, ranging all the way upward from a glass of water into which a drop of blood had accidentally fallen. M. de Sombreuil, it may be added, was arrested on another charge, and guillotined in June, 1794. "We may conclude," says the author, "that Mlle. de Sombreuil was not obliged to drink a glass of blood for the very simple reason that it was neither proposed to her nor imposed on her."

There are here serviceable brief studies of Mme. Tallien, Marat and Robespierre; also the reminiscence of a prisoner who knew that the Terror was over when he heard his jailer snarl: "Lie down, Robespierre." Rouget de L'Isle, the author of the "Marseillaise," we learn, returned immediately to the obscurity from which the song had lifted him for a moment. In 1796 he published a volume of "Essais en Verse et en Prose" that were "lamentably bad." He died, forgotten and in poverty, in 1836.

There is record here of a dog condemned to death by the Revolutionary tribunal, of a fanatic who went around the country demolishing statues of royalty, and who, in 1794, guillotined in the name of the Republic a set of wax figures of the tyrants of Europe leagued in war against her—effigies of the King of Prussia, the Emperor of Austria, of Pitt. An appendix contains extracts from three pamphlets directed against Marie Antoinette, among them an "epistle to her godfather the devil," written in her name.

The book is a collection of marginal notes of interest to all students of the Reign of Terror.

TREITSCHKE'S GERMAN HISTORY.

A translation of Treitschke's "History of Germany in the Nineteenth Century," in several volumes, is announced by McBride, Nast & Co. The translation is by Eden and Cedar Paul; it has been "edited" by William Hurbutt Dawson, the author of "The Evolution of Modern Germany." The first volume will appear early in April.

ANTARCTIC ADVENTURE

Two Narratives of Hardship, Danger and Success.

ANTARCTIC ADVENTURE. Scott's Northern Party. By Raymond E. Priestley. With a map and 150 illustrations. 8vo, pp. 362. E. P. Dutton & Co.

THE HOME OF THE BLIZZARD. Being the Story of the Australian Antarctic Expedition, 1911-14. By Sir Douglas Mawson, D. Sc., B. E. With over 200 photographs, 14 color plates, drawings, maps, plans, diagrams, etc. 2 vols. 8vo, pp. xxx, 352; xiii, 338. Philadelphia: The J. B. Lippincott Company.

Mr. Priestley's book is one of the by-products of the ill-fated last antarctic expedition of Captain Scott. He was the geologist of its northern party, in charge of Commander V. L. A. Campbell, R. N., the results of whose scientific explorations in the neighborhood of the Ferrar Glacier remain one of the solid successes of the expedition. We have had many narratives of the hardships and dangers, the courage, daring and endurance of ventures into the eternal snow and ice of the earth's two poles, but this book, like Sir Douglas Mawson's, renews the charm which exploration in an armchair always has had for innumerable readers. Strange it is that with the progress made in the equipment of such expeditions, with the greater care given to the comforts of their members, their romantic interest has grown rather than diminished, perhaps because, when less miserable physically, less reduced to the mere animal struggle for survival, the minds of their chroniclers are more receptive to impressions, more elastic to store and retain them. However that may be, Mr. Priestley has added a first class story to the library of antarctic exploration.

Sir Douglas Mawson's long narrative is, above all else, the unconscious self-revelation of a Man—of a giant among men. His was an exploit almost as Homeric as Scott's retreat that ended in his death; but Sir Douglas won out after having lost his two companions, one in a crevasse, the other succumbing slowly to disease, tended to the last by the man whose own chances of survival diminished with each hour of watching. Then began the lonely struggle back, an incessant battle with ice, snow, darkness and blizzards, without dogs, and almost without food. It is this element of almost superhuman effort that sets this narrative by the side of Nansen's "Farthest North," which remains, after all, the most gripping story of its kind in existence.

Both works are well and abundantly illustrated.

CONTEMPORARY DRAMA

A Welcome Book of Plays, Not About Them.

CHIEF CONTEMPORARY DRAMATISTS. Twenty Plays from the Recent Drama of England, Ireland, America, Germany, France, Belgium, Norway, Sweden and Russia. Selected and edited by Thomas H. Dickinson. 8vo, pp. ix, 919. The Houghton Mifflin Company.

THE PLAYS OF OSCAR WILDE. "Cosmopolitan Library," Vol. I. Thin paper, 12mo, pp. 666. New York: H. S. Nichols.

This volume of Mr. Dickinson's is a happy thought. One hopes that its commercial success will encourage him to give us at an early date a second and a third collection like it, for, of course, the twenty plays here given, while representative, in no way exhaust the field. The book comes at the right moment. The literature of the contemporary drama, studies of its tendencies and aims, its aspirations and achievements—books about it—is now so voluminous and exhaustive that compact collections of the plays themselves have become a necessity. The average bookshelf has its limits. Nowhere else, so far as we know, can the serious student or the desultory play reader find within so small a space Wilde's "Lady Windermere's Fan," Pinero's "Second Mrs. Tanqueray," Henry Arthur Jones's "Michael and His Lost Angel," Galsworthy's "Strife," Granville Barker's "The Madras House," Yeats's "Hour Glass," Synge's "Riders to the Sea," Lady Gregory's "Rising of the Moon," Clyde Fitch's "Truth," Moody's "The Great Divide," Augustus Thomas's "The Witching Hour," Percy MacKaye's "The Scarecrow," Hauptmann's "The Weavers," Sudermann's "The Vale of Content," Brieux's "The Red Robe," Hervieu's "Know Thyself," Maeterlinck's "Pelléas et Mélisande," Björnson's "Beyond Human Power," Strindberg's "The Father," and Tchekhov's "The Cherry Orchard."

This collection is truly representative of the serious tendency of the contemporary drama. Questions of omission are not in place here, though it will be observed at once that Barrie and Shaw are missing. Mr. Dickinson has purposely excluded Ibsen, because he is no longer a contemporary; he has become a classic, the pioneer who broke the path for them all. One might have preferred Sudermann's "Magda" to his "Glück im Winkel" as his representative play, especially in connection with

Continued on page 11, column 1